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Circuit Court is Working This Week on the Smallest Docket Known for a Long Time.

Increased Exports Due to War Orders

Washington, Oct. 20.—Exports to the value of three billion dollars for the period September 1914 to August 1915 is the new record set by this country, according to figures recently made public by the department of commerce. The nearest approach to this record, for this particular period, was in 1912—1913, under a republican administration, when exports amounted to two billion and a half of dollars. This was the high tide of our exports under normal conditions. It came about as a result of our self-sufficiency at home and legitimate trade competition for foreign markets. It was made up of products which added to the enjoyment of life, not largely of those used for the destruction of life. It was a normal trade, under wise laws, ably administered, and not the result of a feverish demand by war-mad nations floundering in a saturnalia of slaughter.

The figures published by the department of commerce cover a twelve-months period when this country was actively engaged in filling war orders to the European belligerents, during which time our export trade amounted to \$3,035,033,280. During this period there was an increase over the period September 1913 to August 1914 of fully one billion dollars in the value of those articles which properly come under the head of munitions of war. Our total export trade for a similar period in 1912—1913, under republican law, was \$2,498,053,721. In 1913—1914, same period, eleven months of which was under the Underwood tariff law, our export trade fell to \$2,280,185,791, a decrease of about \$218,000,000. Had there been a normal export trade in munitions of war, our export trade for 1915 would no doubt have fallen below the two billion mark.

For this same period in 1914—1915 our import trade (articles that compete with American manufactures and American labor) amounted to \$1,669,698,934, compared with \$1,906,657,515 for the same period in 1913-1914, the first year of the Underwood tariff, a decrease of \$237,000,000, showing the extent to which the war performed the office of a protective tariff proxy, so that it is not unreasonable to say that the European war benefited this country to the extent of fully one billion dollars in export trade and \$237,000,000 import trade, and this does not take into consideration the undoubted fact that our import trade in 1915 would have been far greater than in 1914, had hostilities not resulted in embargoes, decreased tonnage, the foreign manufacture of war munitions instead of competitive products, and the sending of millions of foreign laborers to the firing line. For the same period, 1912—1913, under the republican tariff law, our imports amounted to \$1,786,297,989, or but \$116,500,000 greater than the 1914—1915 period under all the trade demoralizations of the war.

This \$1,786,000,000 of imports in 1912—1913 produced a government revenue of \$318,542,112, or an average ad valorem rate of duty of 17.8 per cent. The \$1,906,000,000 in 1914, under the democratic tariff, produced \$275,687,818, of which \$51,000,000 should be credited to republican rates which were in effect for the first few months of the democratic law. The average ad valorem for this period fell to 12.46 per cent. The \$1,669,000,000 of imports in 1914—1915 produced \$197,614,460 of revenue, or an average ad valorem of 11.84 per cent. For the last-named period, 62 per cent of the imports entered the American market without paying one cent of revenue to the government, and for the month of August, last, the percentage went up to 70. If the republican average ad valorem rate of 1913 had been collected on the total imports for 1914—1915, cur-

tailed as those imports were, this country could have gotten along fairly well without the enactment of the so-called "war revenue" measure.

What a record for the democratic party to boast about! Made while the most horrible holocaust in the history of civilization was in progress, and attributed to the virtues of a democratic administration!

If New Orleans rebuilds the old French Market all new, will the coffee be as alluring?

Mr. Gordon's Defense

State Auditor John P. Gordon, after being deserted by Attorney General Barker, concluded to act as his own attorney in defense of his diverting a large part of the public school fund to the general revenue fund. There is a venerable adage about the character of a client represented by himself that does not apply to this case. Mr. Gordon's present purpose is to set himself right before the people instead of to get the supreme court to decide that the temporary opinion of the attorney general properly interpreted the law. While the need for revenue is as urgent as it was when the official quintet agreed upon the school fund juggle, popular indignation is so pronounced that the star of the quintet has pledged himself to call an extra session of the general assembly to undo what he and his associates planned should the supreme court find that they were technically correct. Surely the state auditor does not wish the state to be out the expenses of a special session of the general assembly, estimated at \$250,000, merely to nullify the effect of a court interpretation of statutory language which might be changed whenever the general assembly desired. Constitutional language is not involved, as the attorney general discovered when a copy of that venerable instrument fell into his hands.

Mr. Gordon, judging from the press synopsis of his remarks, is exceedingly interested in lexicology. He is determined to have "ordinary revenue" defined. The legislators who first used the term and all their successors seemed satisfied with the traditional interpretation. But the recent investigating committee asked for a definition. This could not have been the sole cause, however, for Mr. Gordon's curiosity had been aroused prior to November, 1914, when he asked the attorney general's office for an opinion on the subject. Mr. Gordon does not mention the necessity of thwarting the wicked oil interests, which the governor has contended was the prime object of the suit. But he does insist that he wants the schools to have the last cent due them. So the May conference was a philological and not a financial gathering. The quintet cannot even offer the venerable excuse that they "needed the money."—Globe-Democrat.

Peace at any price, indeed. Henry Ford is willing to go in to the extent of \$10,000,000.

Competing With American Farmers

Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, files a report showing the value of exports of live cattle from Canada to the United States since 1900. For 1911 the value was \$456,079; 1912, \$615,399. These two years were under the republican tariff. In 1913, nine months under the democratic tariff, the value jumped to \$1,116,923, and in 1914 to \$7,043,086. Consul Johnson makes this significant statement: "The increase noted in 1913 and 1914 to the United States was occasioned by the removal of duty on cattle entering that country."

Recent figures show that for the Canadian customs year ending March 31, 1915, 183,652 head of cattle went to the United States; for 1914, 206,446; for 1913, 28,268.

Is Wilson Alone Right?

President Wilson should remember the fate of Cleveland and beware. He undertook to "bull things through." Congress, and, though he succeeded there, he split his party and sentenced it to twenty years' purgatory under Bryan's leadership. Mr. Wilson may bull his ship purchase bill through Congress, but his party is very likely to split on the question, and both he and his party will surely be punished for the fiasco which will as surely follow. There is no escape for President and a party which go directly counter to public opinion.

That public opinion is opposed to the ship purchase bill is proved by the overwhelming adverse vote of the chambers of commerce of the United States. These bodies are not mere handiuls of leaders in business. They are composed of the great body of business men of their respective communities, as is the Portland Chamber with nearly 5000 members. These men are of all parties. There is among them doubtless as large a proportion of democrats as there is among the population at large. These Democratic business men would naturally incline to support a measure fathered by the leader of their party. Their business sense, applied to public affairs, compels them to oppose that measure.

Do the President and the Secretary of the Treasury presume to say that they are right and that the composite business sense of the country is wrong? Are they the repositories of all the wisdom in the country? The political support which they have received in congress has no significance as a guide to public judgment, for it comes from the thick-and-thin supporters of the Administration. A safer guide is the opposition of those independent Democrats who refuse to be blinded to the inherent folly of ship purchase and whose judgment cannot be swayed, nor their voices silenced nor their votes controlled by party dictation—Portland Oregonian.

Is Bryan losing his hold? Well, down in Houston, Texas, where the Houston "Post" daily fulminates against the Nebraskan and all of his kind, "one of the largest crowds that ever entered the auditorium"—we quote from the "Post's" report of the meeting—turned out to hear Mr. Bryan's lecture and cheerfully paid for their tickets.

End of Watchful Waiting

That the administration is heartily tired of watchful waiting in Mexican affairs has been plain for some time. It was made plainer on Saturday, at the meeting of the diplomatic representatives of the Pan-American governments which have interested themselves jointly in an effort to restore Mexican government. The conference reached a unanimous agreement that the Carranza faction is the only one meeting the essentials for recognition as one having military and moral capacity to inaugurate a de facto government. The reports indicate that the influence of the United States helped negative a suggestion, made by several of the Latin-Americans, that there should be further withholding of recognition until Gen. Carranza has fulfilled some of the guarantees he has made. The final decision was that he will be in much stronger position to meet all of his promises with early recognition than without it.

This was a wise conclusion. All Americans, and no doubt the vast majority of Mexicans, will take satisfaction out of the assurance of early recognition, by this country, of a de facto government at the City of Mexico, and draw the hope that with such recognition, Carranza will be able to sustain his government and soon to restore peace. Villa having already announced that he will continue the war, makes the question of relaying the embargo on munitions, which was

lifted by Mr. Wilson as a means of defeating Huerta, a very important one. The conferees considered it, but reached no conclusion. It is plain that, unless the embargo is restored, Villa and Zapata could continue fighting for a long time.

Carranza's pledges include a general amnesty, with but few exceptions. Religious liberty is to be strictly respected, and exiled priests and nuns are to be permitted to return to the country. Foreign residents are guaranteed protection and the Carranza government is to assume responsibility for all just and proved claims growing out of the revolution. These things are so desirable in themselves that, to hasten them, the decision of the conferees should be soon followed by our renewal of an embargo on arms. Without such action they may still be delayed indefinitely.—Globe-Democrat.

There is a craze for fur trimmings for women's wear and nobody doing thing for the ostrich farmer.

Woodrow Wilson is 59 years old, has been discussing public questions for thirty years, was earnestly importuned for two years to make known his attitude on the woman suffrage question and his position on that issue has just become known. Although a reputed advocate of pitiless publicity he is certainly a master of concealment. Few politicians are adroit enough to evade committing themselves for so long a period of time.

Under The Republican Banner

"If the present national administration and the incoming Congress do not place our country upon the proper economic basis for general prosperity, the progressive party should stand ready to unite under any banner."

This is the language of William Hamlin Childs, the leader of the Bull Moose party in Kings county, New York, the county which contains the city of Brooklyn. It indicates that the glamor which democratic editors are trying to throw upon the administration's foreign policy is not dazzling enough to blind observant people to the obvious failure of the Administration's domestic policy, a policy which breeds disaster and which cannot cloak its evil effect behind "war orders."

The conditional action of the administration and of the next Congress, upon which Mr. Childs predicates the necessity for Bull Moose enlistment "under any banner" may be taken for granted. Neither the Administration nor Congress can "place our country upon the proper economic basis for general prosperity" without a confession of error and failure which would prevent them from making any affective appeal for support at the polls. "The proper economic basis for general prosperity" is the republican basis of adequate tariffs for protection and for revenue. The country desires, no doubt, to be put there by republican hands. It is the republican banner under which Mr. Childs and his associates will unite next year.

Reasoning a priori, and keeping particularly in mind the still continued period of silence that followed Woodrow Wilson's pre-election announcement of his conversion to the initiative and referendum and other popular government fundamentals, it will be well for the friends of the equal suffrage movement not to build great hopes on the announcement that the President will support the suffrage. If his activity in behalf of that amendment shall prove to be of the same kind and character as his activity in behalf of presidential primaries, the movement won't get much acceleration from that source. In fact, it might feel the retarding effect of a burden.

To Whom It May Concern

We are having a number of complaints come into our office from officials who are erecting road signs, stating that the signs are shot at and damaged by hunters and others.

We believe that this is oftentimes done thoughtlessly, but inasmuch as it is becoming too much of a custom we would be pleased, if you care to do so, to have you assist in seeing that not only hunters do not shoot signs, but ask the people to not deface the signs by throwing the stones at them; and that the school teachers call attention of the school children to this bad habit, as everybody should have a pride in seeing our highways present a good appearance.

Yours very truly,
FRANK W. BUFFUM,
State Highway Commissioner.

In spite of the juggling of the U. S. treasury statement by which the net balance in the general fund was apparently increased from \$40,898,894 on September 30 to \$128,062,545 on the following day, the course of government business is such that the net balance is decreasing daily. On October 11, it had gone down to \$119,819,746, a decrease of \$8,243,799 in ten days, or an average of \$824,000 per day. What will be the next device of the Treasury Department to cover the extravagance of this administration?

Combining The System

The statewide primary has not been used long enough to warrant final judgment upon it. It has corrected some of the abuses of the loose convention system, although it may well be contended that if the time devoted to devising the primary regulations had been used in perfecting the convention system there would have been more substantial progress. Furthermore the primary has produced some abuses of its own. Not until the supply of men who gained prominence under the convention system has been exhausted will the statewide primary receive the crucial test. It is possible that after a while only such as can pay for publicity and hire workers or such as have remarkable talent as "headliners" will attract attention in the primary. But there is one conclusion which has apparently been reached by practically all the staunchest friends of the statewide primary: This is that the ballot must be shortened to procure an intelligent expression of public opinion. It is mentally impossible for a majority of the electors to inform themselves as to the merits of the multitude of candidates for minor offices.

In Missouri we can not have the short ballot without an amendment to the constitution. But the end can be partially reached by holding of an officially called and strictly regulated state convention for expression of preference for minor offices. No agreement of candidates to abide by the choice of the convention should be asked. This would remove the check from the convention afforded by the referendum at the subsequent primary. Such an agreement would practically make the primary a nullity. Some Missouri Democrats are favoring this, but we trust that the Republicans will not try to evade the state law in such a way. But it would be good sense for them to combine the convention and primary in the manner indicated. The primary would, in all probability, ratify the work of the convention, if it deserved it. There seems to be no necessity for making preferential selections of gubernatorial and senatorial candidates, as the supply of excellent candidates is abundant, and their qualifications well known. The Republicans are not bent on "elimination." They are desirous of nominating a strong and well-balanced ticket.—Globe-Democrat.

Good Road Axioms

"We are approaching an era of road building that will startle the world."

"It costs more money to do without improved roads than it will to build them."

"Improved roads make it possible to do hauling at half the cost in half the time."

"Bad roads force every citizen to pay an indirect tax that is more drastic than any internal revenue or tariff tax ever imposed upon the people."

"Bad roads promote the drift of population to the city."

"Every bad avenue between the producer and consumer, with the middleman doing business along and at both ends of that avenue, adds to the cost of everything that passes over it."

"Patrick Henry said, 'Give me liberty or give me death.' What would he say about the road situation were he now on earth and traveling in an automobile?"

"Improved roads will change backward localities and backward people into enterprising communities and progressive citizens."

"At least ninety per cent of the freight that is shipped over railroads must first pass over a wagon road, and the improvement of the wagon roads is far more important than the discussion of railroad rates."

"Let the nation, the states, the counties and the towns be bound together by a system of improved roads for the use of all the people."—Compiled by Highway Magazine.

Speaking of the question of "dumping", and of trade competition following the close of war, the editor of the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times gives expression to some good horse sense. He calls attention to the fact that the industrial plants of Germany are unimpaired and that throughout the war an association of German manufacturers and financiers has been busy perfecting plans for regaining markets after peace is restored and goes on to say:

"But in the more recondite workings of political and social economy there are factors which will have important influences in the impending fight for markets. The poverty of Europe and the prosperity of the United States may work to the advantage of the former, as a competitor, and against the latter in the struggle. For example, the habit of self-sacrifice imposed even upon non-combatants of Europe while the war is in progress, and the tremendous burden which will follow peace for years to come as a result of unprecedented war debts, will make it easier for English, German and French people of all classes to consume less and produce more. They might be likened to an individual who is working off the mortgage on a home. He is more economical in personal expenditures and more industrious in production than the individual who spends as he earns. The prosperity of the United States, with its rapidly increasing wealth, the higher wages of its workmen, which make possible the gratification of creature comforts; the rising scale of living, which converts luxuries into the necessities of life—all these things add to the cost of production and become a determining factor in international trade."

Regarding the recent municipal elections in Connecticut, even the strongly democratic New Haven "Journal-Courier" is constrained to admit that the predominant feature was the "general republican gains in the larger towns, which characteristic was strikingly extended to the cities of New London and Norwalk, in which republican mayors were chosen." The returns from Connecticut are only another chapter in a continued story. Every election since 1912 has shown remarkable republican gains and republican victories.